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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
30 November 1954

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TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Impending Local Government Elections in Poland

1. Date: 5 December 1954
2. Offices to be filled: Approximately 230,000 posts in local people's councils (local government bodies) on the province, district and village level.
3. Party participation: All candidates run on the Polish National Front slate, but are nominated by the Polish United Workers Party (communist), the communist-dominated United Peasant and Democratic parties, and so-called mass organizations which are completely regime-controlled.
4. Significant features:
 - a. In this first countrywide local government election since World War II a key role is played by the All-Polish National Front Committee, which is attempting to foster the illusion that all Poland is united behind new course banners of higher living standards and greater freedom. National Front spokesmen have declared that balloting will be secret and that agitation for demonstrative open voting is improper.
 - b. Despite National Front propaganda, a number of nominations have been reversed and new nomination meetings have been called to secure trustworthy candidates.
 - c. The current election is particularly important to the regime as a means of gaining greater control over the countryside. Far reaching pre-election reforms in local government structure created new rural communes (villages) and the regime is bending every effort to gain reliable local government officials in these units.

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- d. National Front spokesmen have claimed that their committees are meeting with resistance from entrenched local-government and party officials. This suggests that the regime is having difficulty controlling such officials who are reluctant to surrender their posts.

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
Assistant Director
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